Activation of a Joint Commission on Education with Pakistan

2927. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given a go ahead for "activation" of a joint commission on education with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the activities that are proposed to be planned between the two educational bodies; and

(d) to what extent this would help to boost people to people contact between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E.AHAMMED): (a) to (d) In October 2005, India and Pakistan agreed to revive the Joint Commission set up in 1983, which had not met since 1989. The 4th session of the Joint Commission was held in Islamabad on October 4, 2005 under the co-chairmanship of the Indian External Affairs Minister and the Pakistan Foreign Minister. It was decided to set up Technical Level Working Groups on Agriculture, Health, Science & Technology, Information, Education, I.T. & Telecommunications, Environment and Tourism. The Working Group on Education is yet to meet.

Border talks with China

2928. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Chinese Special Representative held another *i.e.* eighth round of border talks;

(b) if so, whether any package of settlement of the boundary issues was evolved as a result thereof, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether cross border trade across Nathu La pass has since been commenced, if so, the volume of extent of the two way trade and the main items of trade to the from China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E.AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Eighth Round of talks between the Special Representatives of India, Shri M.K. Narayanan, National Security Adviser and Mr. Dai Bingguo,